

Post-Election Audit Standards Working Group Charter

MISSION

The mission of the Post-Election Audit Standards Working Group is to evaluate various ways to conduct post-election audits; provide options to the Secretary of State for use in the planning, development and implementation of manual count audit standards that will enhance the security, accuracy and reliability of election results; and develop best practice guidelines for reconciling manual audit and machine count results.

BACKGROUND

While many states have no requirement to manually audit election results, California Elections Code § 15360 requires counties to conduct a manual tally of 1% of precincts following each election. Congress is considering legislation to set a national standard that could require higher percentages of election results to be audited in a post-election hand count. Because post-election manual auditing can help ensure the security, accuracy and reliability of voting systems, it makes sense to take a comprehensive look at auditing standards, models and other processes that may be appropriate to implement in California.

OBJECTIVES

The Working Group will provide perspectives and evaluation in a report to be submitted to the Secretary of State by July 27, 2007. The Working Group need not come to a consensus nor develop formal recommendations. Rather, it will undertake to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of various audit methods and evaluate the reliability and accuracy of each method. All comments are welcome and encouraged. The Secretary of State will consider all comments and recommendations from the Working Group.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All Working Group members are expected to:

- ☐ Demonstrate a commitment to open discussion and the sharing of ideas, as well as the desire to work in partnership with other members to identify issues and possible solutions.
- ☐ Review materials distributed prior to the meetings and attend meetings prepared to engage and provide input, and make recommendations on the issues being discussed.
- ☐ Raise issues and deliberate with other members.
- ☐ Provide feedback and recommendations regarding project issues as requested.
- ☐ Help develop the Working Group's report to the Secretary of State.

MEMBERSHIP

The Working Group will be comprised of representatives of various interests as specified below. Secretary of State staff will facilitate meetings.

- David Jefferson (Chairperson), Center for Applied Scientific Computing, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory
- Elaine Ginnold, Registrar of Voters, Marin County
- Kathleen Midstokke, City Clerk, City of Downey
- Kim Alexander, California Voter Foundation
- Philip Stark, Professor of Statistics, University of California, Berkeley
- Amy Lehmkuhl, Certified Public Accountant, Ueltzen & Company, LLP

Members should be able to commit to the time required to prepare for and attend all meetings for the duration of the Working Group's existence.

MEETINGS

- ❑ The Working Group will hold at least one public forum to hear presentations from experts and comments from members of the public.

COMMUNICATION

- ❑ Communication will be handled via scheduled meetings and email.
- ❑ Drafts of the Working Group's report to be submitted to the Secretary of State shall be kept confidential.